

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants request reconsideration of the refusal to recognize Applicant's reliance on the priority date for this U.S. Patent Application. This application was filed by the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.10 as Express Mail on October 22, 2001 by Applicant's previous counsel, under Express Mail Certificate No. EL 69 9358526US. Due to the anthrax scare during the later part of 2001, mail delivery was delayed for a significant period. Attached hereto is a copy of the certificate of mailing of the previous counsel, and of an internet receipt received from the U.S. Patent Office showing the mailing date as October 22, 2001 and the delivery date as January 23, 2002. It is understood that the U.S.PTO has allowed forbearance as to the filing dates during this period, and Applicant desires to rely thereon for the filing date of October 22, 2001.

The Office Action dated December 16, 2003 indicates that Claims 2-3 and 8-14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejections, for which indication the Applicant expresses his appreciation.

The Office Action further indicates that Claims 4-6 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the above Amendment, the limitations of Claims 2 and 8 have been set forth and recited in independent Claims 1 and 7, respectively. Claim 4 has been rendered as an independent claim. The objected to recitations in previous Claims 2 and 8, now cancelled, have been corrected to recite that the dust collecting container is disposed in the lower space, and thus the relationship of these two recited terms have been more clearly set forth.

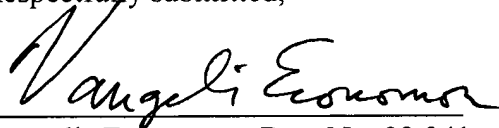
Additionally, Claim 7 has been amended to include a suction source. The specification and drawings have also been corrected, in conformance with the suggestions made in the Office Action.

corrections and new formal drawings including corrections shown in the marked drawings. No new matter has been added.

The above amendments are considered to have overcome all outstanding objections and rejections.

For the above reasons, it is considered that the claims, as amended, find support in the application specification as filed, and that the combination of elements recited in the pending claims, as amended, distinguish over the references of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vangelis Economou". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "V".

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